

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION RELEASES DRAFT REPORT, SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT

WHAT: Regional Transportation Commission Public Comment Process

WHEN: BEGINS NOVEMBER 15, 2006: HEARINGS, NOVEMBER 21 AND 28

BELLEVUE – The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), formed by the Governor and the Legislature in June 2006 to evaluate how the region's transportation system is governed and funded, today released its Draft Report, kicking off a 15-day public comment period. The report is available on the RTC's Web site at www.psrtc.wa.gov.

The report includes a set of possible alternatives for governance models that will be discussed publicly before final recommendations are sent to the Governor and Legislature at the end of 2006. The RTC seeks public comment on options that include a new elected regional governance body, new financing strategies, and combining land use and transportation governance, all with the goal of improving mobility and cost effectiveness for central Puget Sound residents. Public comment will help shape the final recommendations.

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“Public opinion research consistently shows that transportation is one of the greatest priorities for Central Puget Sound residents, and these recommendations will help shape the future of the transportation system and strengthen the economic vitality of our region,” said Norm Rice, co-chair (AP says yes, lowercase) of the RTC. “Therefore, public participation is vital.”

“The findings we outlined in this draft report show that our present transportation governance system is fragmented and clearly not meeting our regional needs,” said John Stanton, RTC co-chair. “The commission is headed towards recommending a pretty bold plan for a new regional governing entity that does multi-modal planning, project prioritization, and has broad financing capabilities. But this public comment period is critical to our deliberations, and we want to be sure the public supports this vision.”

The public comment period will include:

RTC Public Hearing 1 – Tuesday, November 21, 2006

5:00 p.m. Public testimony sign-up begins

5:30 p.m. Public meeting begins

Port of Tacoma Business Center

3600 Port of Tacoma Road

Tacoma, WA 98424

RTC Public Hearing 2 – Tuesday, November 28, 2006

5:00 p.m. Public testimony sign-up begins

5:30 p.m. Public meeting begins

Snohomish County Administration Building

1st Floor, Admin-East, Public Hearing Room #1

3000 Rockefeller Ave

Everett, WA 98201

(This hearing will be broadcast live on TVW, see www.tvw.org for details and channel information.)

Public comments will also be accepted by the RTC throughout the 15 days comment period.

Comments can be sent to the Regional Transportation Commission by calling 1-800-606-9161, emailing linda.robson@trilogy-partners.net or writing to: Regional Transportation Commission, PO Box 53010, Bellevue, WA 98015-3010. Comments received before December 1st will be included in the official record.

The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) is a citizen advisory group created by the Washington State Legislature and Governor Chris Gregoire in the 2006 Legislative Session.

The RTC has nine voting members—Co-chairs Rice and Stanton and members Mary Gates and Dan McDonald representing King County; Dave Johnson and Tim Farrell from Pierce County; Gigi Burke and Reid Shockey from Snohomish County; and Dwight Sutton from Kitsap County. Washington State Secretary of Transportation Douglas MacDonald also participates as a non-voting member.

The RTC is tasked with evaluating transportation governance and financing in the four county Central Puget Sound region (AP unclear, LR thinks maybe lowercase), including King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties. The RTC is asked to assess the current roles of region's transportation agencies and the current finance structures.

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